

Allied Arts of Seattle

Mission

The mission of Allied Arts is to enhance the cultural livability of Seattle and to create a social network of people who care about the Arts, Urban Design and Historic Preservation.

History

Allied Arts is best known as the organization that worked to save Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square as well as establish the Seattle Arts Commission. Since 1954, we've collaborated with an array of civic leaders and organizations to help maintain and improve Seattle's quality of urban life.



ALLIED ARTS

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GROW Gracefully

A Vision for SEATTLE



ALLIED ARTS



GROWTH should benefit EVERYONE and make Seattle a place we LOVE even more!

If Seattle can't grow into a place we LOVE even more during a huge BOOM in wealth, when can it happen?

Learn the A B C D & Es of growing gracefully:

- A▶ AFFORDABLE ARTIST housing and workspaces
- B▶ Small/local BUSINESS support
- C▶ CHARACTER structures and districts
- D▶ DESIGN quality & livability improvements
- E▶ ENOUGH infrastructure to match growth

Grow Gracefully—Background

Values of Allied Arts and Seattle

We value the qualities vital to Seattle's livability and its soul:

- Urban fabric
- Sense of place
- Character structures
- Character districts
- Local businesses
- Human scale
- Public spaces
- Diversity
- Affordability
- Communitarian spirit



The role of Allied Arts has been to change the conversation about vital urban issues. We have a history of setting and leading debate on urban issues such as saving Pike Place Market, protecting Pioneer Square and a Waterfront for All.

Unprecedented Upheaval—the Need

While we can point to current development projects that enhance Seattle's livability and soul, we see far too many that do significant harm to these qualities; and still others that enhance some qualities while harming others.

We have the opportunity now to raise the bar so that new developments build on what's great about Seattle. While Seattle must respond to the immediate affordability crisis, we also have the opportunity to build a community that will positively serve generations to come.

The Road Ahead—the Campaign

Today, Seattle finds itself at a crossroads regarding growth. Much of the dialogue is characterized as two opposing camps warring over a false choice between those who feel all growth is good and those who feel any growth is bad.

We reject both premises. Our civic conversation should be about livability, how we maintain—and enhance—the livability of a city we all love, as it grows and matures, even as we accept our share of the region's growth. The focus must be on how our city aspires to serve all of its residents—and how it aspires to become a great city.

Grow Gracefully—Vision

As Seattle absorbs more people and wealth, growth should make it a better community for all—a city we love even more than we do today.

Growth in general can happen in two ways:

- ▶ Change becomes a broader part of who you are, reinforcing your past and strengthening your future; OR
- ▶ Events that change you are traumatic and alter your soul to a point where those who love you don't recognize you anymore.

Growth should reinforce the fundamental DNA of Seattle.

How does Seattle evolve without mutating into something fundamentally not Seattle?

How can Seattle change and remain fundamentally a city we can love?

Grow Gracefully—Key Goals

- ▶ Improve **housing affordability including artists' housing** and workspaces.
- ▶ Support **small/local businesses**.
- ▶ Preserve “**character structures and districts**,” meaningful buildings because of their history, architecture, use or scale.
- ▶ Improve **design quality, character and livability**.
- ▶ Provide **infrastructure that matches growth** (transportation, open space, gathering places).

Grow Gracefully—Sample Strategies

- Create and expand character districts to preserve what we love about Seattle neighborhoods.
- Focus development in urban villages and protect the scale and use of our “main streets.”
- Allow fewer full-block mega buildings. For instance, in urban villages, limit building footprints to one-fourth block.
- Make use of a Public Development Authority (PDA) to preserve local businesses, character and sale in neighborhood business districts (it works for Pike Place Market).
- Increase public input in design review.
- Increase housing for artists and our cultural workforce.